Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Wednesday 28 Feb 2024 until 23:59 on Thursday 29 Feb 2024

Forecast Issued on Tuesday 27 Feb 2024 at 16:07

Confidence: High for remaining unsettled and turning colder towards the weekend but, due to low pressure becoming slow moving over the UK, becoming increasingly lower for details, especially with regard to winds and any longer spells of rain, sleet or snow.

Headline for Wednesday 28 Feb 2024: Dry start then occasionally heavy rain. Southerly summit gales.

Mountain weather hazards on Wednesday 28 Feb 2024

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent snow
No Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Gales
Low Likelihood

Severe chill effect
Medium Likelihood

Poor visibility
Medium Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
Medium Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Partly cloudy (night)	Partly cloudy (night)	Cloudy	Cloudy	Heavy Rain	Light rain	Light rain	Heavy Rain
Precipitation probability							
10%	<05%	10%	30%	80%	80%	70%	90%

Forecast for Wednesday 28 Feb 2024

Weather: Mainly dry with clear spells through the early hours, although cloud above the summits increasing towards dawn. Then a mainly dry but cloudy start, however outbreaks of rain, preceded above about 750m by snow spread east through the morning and become heavy at times, especially on southern fells. The afternoon and through the evening sees further outbreaks of occasionally heavy rain, most persistent over southern and western fells.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Around 90% at first falling close to zero across southern and western fells by early afternoon and 25% over eastern fells

Low cloud and visibility: Only small amounts of cloud below the summits at first but periods or persistent cloud above 450-600m, with patches below, spreading east through the morning and early afternoon, although cloud in the east more occasional above 750m at times. Away from cloud visibility very good falling to several kilometres in rain and perhaps a kilometre in any snow.

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Wednesday 28 Feb 2024

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	21/25 SW	22/26 SW	29/34 SW	38/47 S	40/49 S	34/41 S	36/44 SW	37/46 SW	45/57 SW
600	19/26 SW	15/19 SW	26/34 SW	33/44 S	32/44 S	26/35 S	24/34 SW	26/37 SW	32/45 SW
300	7/20 W	4/16 SW	9/24 SW	13/33 S	11/29 S	7/22 S	9/25 SW	10/27 SW	12/33 SW
Valley	6/18 W	4/15 SW	6/20 SW	11/28 S	7/24 S	7/20 S	9/25 SW	11/26 SW	15/33 SW

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-0/-7	-0/-7	-0/-8	-0/-9	1/-8	3/-4	4/-2	4/-2	4/-3
600	2/-4	1/-4	2/-5	2/-6	2/-5	4/-1	6/0	6/0	6/-0
300	4/1	3/2	4/0	4/-0	4/-0	6/3	7/4	7/4	7/4
Valley	6/4	5/4	5/4	6/3	6/4	7/5	8/6	8/6	9/5
Freezing Level*	800m	800m	800m	900m	2100m	2200m	2000m	2000m	2000m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Gusts around 60mph over ridges and summits from mid-morning with, combined with the rain, a significant chill effect despite the rising temperatures.

Forecast for Thursday 29 Feb 2024

Weather: Cloud and occasionally heavy rain clearing east through the early hours to leave a bright day with some sunny spells and occasional showers developing, these falling increasingly as snow above about 450m.

Maximum wind: Southwesterly 30-40mph, gusts around 60mph over ridges and summits through the early hours but easing 20-25mph by mid-morning but still with gusts 40mph over the fell tops.

Chance of cloud-free hill tops above 800m: Around 25% at dawn soon rising to 75%

Low cloud and visibility: Periods of cloud 450-600m soon lifting and breaking to become occasional above 750m, but lowering briefly in or near showers. Away from cloud visibility several kilometres in overnight rain, otherwise very good falling briefly to a kilometre or so in snow showers.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Around plus 6 Celsius rising to around plus 8 or 9 Celsius
At 800m: Around plus 5 Celsius falling to minus 1 Celsius
Freezing level: Well above the summits gradually falling to 600m

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Tuesday 27 February 2024 Location: Helvellyn summit at 11:41 Full report: A wet and windy day with a mixture of rain, sleet, and snow at times. The summit temperature around midday was +1ºC and none of the snow was really settling. As such, the snowline remains similar to yesterday at roughly 600m. Although snow cover is generally thin, drifts of around 50cm and deeper are present in sheltered areas, most notably around north and east-facing corrie rims where small cornices have formed in places. Sunny south-facing slopes have lost the most snow cover, and are often a mixture of snow and exposed ground, whereas shaded north-facing slopes still have more continuous cover. Steep and exposed routes such as the Helvellyn edges are in winter condition (although with plenty of exposed rock along the crests). On popular routes such as these, snow has been compressed and is now quite icy. It will only take a marginal drop in temperature to freeze much of today's wet snow to produce a lot more ice. More unsettled conditions are forecast tomorrow with winds near gale force over high ground. Further hill snow is possible and windchill (feels-like) temperatures are likely to be significant in these conditions. Full winter clothing (warm and waterproof) including hats and gloves, and equipment including a map, compass, and headtorch are all essential. Goggles may also be a sensible addition to your rucksack for navigating and route finding in challenging conditions. For anyone attempting routes over steep and exposed ground (such as Helvellyn's edges) an ice axe and crampons/microspikes are strongly recommended. Temperature: plus 1.0 C, Maximum wind speed 37.1 mph, Wind chill: minus 7.9 C, Average wind speed: 31.0 mph

Issued at: 1607 on Tue 27 Feb 2024

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